

NEWS SNAPS

Youth killed in Satkhira road mishap

UNB, Satkhira
One young man was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Khulna highway at Kumia in Tala upazila Tuesday.

Police said Sheikh Abdul Jalil, son of Sheikh Abdul Karim of village Dadpur in Tala upazila, died on the spot when a pick-up van hit his bicycle on the road. After the accident, local people seized the van and put barricade on the highway disrupting traffic for about 3 hours.

Stipend for girl students at HSC level

UNB, Chandpur
Some 2,923 girl students at Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) level in Chandpur received Tk 23,05,470 as stipend and tuition fees from the government in the first six months of the current year.

The present government has introduced the stipend in a bid to attract girls to higher education. Upazila-wise break-up of the distributed money: Sadar- Tk 6,38,300, Haimchar Tk 31,770, Shahrasti Tk 2,70,770, Hajiganj Tk 3,32,970, Faridganj Tk 3,15,390, Matlab (south and north) Tk 5,86,340 and Kochua Tk 1,29,930.

Eight hurt in clash over playing carom

UNB, Patuakhali
Eight students were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Patuakhali Government College Tuesday.

Police said the clash took place over playing carom and table tennis in the common room of the college at about 9 am. Both the groups used lethal weapons. Four of the injured - Masud, Ronny, Sujan and Shahriar - were admitted to general hospital.

Three snatchers get 3-year RI

UNB, Munshiganj
A court here Tuesday sentenced three people to three years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) under the Speedy Trial Act in a snatching case.

The court also fined the convicts - Khokon Chandra Das, Shyamal and Liton - Tk 5,000 each. According to the prosecution, the three men attacked two people at Panchasar on Munshiganj-Tongbari road on the night of July 30 last year and took away their belongings. After examining the records and witness, the Judge found them guilty of snatching and handed down the verdict.

Four firearms with bullets recovered

UNB, Munshiganj
Four firearms along with bullets were recovered from village Beshnal in Tongbari upazila Monday night.

On information, police recovered the arms, including a light machinegun, and the ammunition wrapped with a sack. A case was filed.

Private clinic agents active in Sirajganj hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Private clinic owners in Sirajganj have posted agents at the local general hospital to lure patients in the name of better treatment.

The agents enjoy free access to the hospital premises. The agents try to admit the victims to private clinics. There are 120 private clinics here. Most of these agents live in Hossennur, Dhanbandi and Malshapara areas of the town. They are mostly found waiting in front of the emergency wing and near the entrance of the hospital.

The presence of agents is hampering the normal activity of the hospital, local people said. Often patients from rural areas are harassed by such agents. They receive money from the owners for luring patients.

"As doctors are involved in the process, I never consider it unethical," said an agent requesting not to be named. When asked how much he gets for the job. Shajahan, an agent, said he gets Tk 150 to 250 from the clinic owner after a patient is admitted. "I earn Tk. 3000 to Tk. 3500 per month in the job from different clinics. It is the only source of income to maintain my family," said an agent. When contacted, Residential Medical Officer (RMO) of the hospital Dr Abdul Awal said adequate measures have been taken to prevent brokers from entering into the hospital.

However, some staff, who were not willing to be named, said agents are still active. The agents enter into the hospital premises in guise of patient's attendants, they said. They carry on their work unhindered, it is widely alleged.

Patients and their attendants alleged a section of doctors and staff at the hospital, excepting the RMO also work for the interest of private clinics. Some patients, who are refused admission in a planned way, are advised by some doctors to get admitted to certain clinics for better treatment.

Meanwhile Sirajganj General Hospital has been facing manifold problems including water scarcity and shortage of doctors.

Hospital sources said many posts including Assistant Registrar (6 posts), outdoor medical officer (2 posts) emergency medical officer 4 posts, 5 MLSS, one sweeper and one bearer have been lying vacant for a long time.

The number of beds for patients in the 100-bed hospital is not adequate. Many patients have to stay on floors due to shortage of beds.

Patients have urged the authorities concerned to solve the water crisis immediately which they are facing acutely.

Wheat output target fixed at 11,08,350 tons for 16 dists

BSS, Joypurhat

The government has taken up an extensive programme of wheat cultivation in the Rabi season of 2002-2003 in the northern districts.

Under the programme, 11,08,350 tons of wheat may be produced from 4,92,600 hectares of land in 16 districts of Rajshahi division in the coming winter season, official sources said.

The production of wheat was not satisfactory in the last Rabi season of 2001-2002 when a target of producing 10,78,077 tons of wheat from 4,66,700 hectares was fixed for the northern region. It happened due to unfavourable climatic condition and drought.

But adequate measures have

been taken this time to make the wheat cultivation programme a success.

The district-wise break-up of the fixed target is as follows: 11,250 tons of wheat from 5,000 hectares in Joypurhat, 19,125 tons from 8,500 hectares in Bogra, 76,500 tons from 34,000 hectares in Naogaon, 87,075 tons from 38,700 hectares in Rajshahi, 49,500 tons from 22,000 hectares in Chapainawabganj, 58,500 tons from 26,000 hectares in Natore, 51,750 tons from 23,000 hectares in Sirajganj, 1,03,500 tons from 46,000 hectares in Pabna, 77,625 tons from 34,500 hectares in Rangpur, 34,875 tons from 15,500 hectares in Gaibandha, 52,875 tons from 23,500 hectares in Nilphamari, 29,250 tons from 13,000 hectares in

Lalmonirhat, 73,125 tons from 32,500 hectares in Kurigram, 1,68,750 tons from 75,000 hectares in Dinajpur, 59,400 tons from 26,400 hectares in Panchagarh and 1,55,250 tons of wheat from 69,000 hectares of land in Thakurgaon.

Adequate measures are being taken by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and other organisations to supply wheat seeds.

The government has also fixed a wheat production target of 19,12,500 tons from 8,50,000 hectares of land in 64 districts in the country in 2002-2003 Rabi crop season, the DAE sources said.

Shots from districts



PHOTO: STAR

A winner of an art competition arranged by Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Satkhira, receives prize from Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira. The art competition was arranged on the occasion of Female Child Day and Meena Day at the academy premises on September 30.



Md Faizur Rahman Choudhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Bangladesh Scouts inaugurated a Cub Leaders' Basic Course at Primary Training Institute (PTI) centre at Kamalapur in Chuadanga on October 4. A total of 45 school teachers attended the training course where Syed Mahub Hasan, District Commissioner, Chuadanga also spoke on the occasion.

Viral fever breaks out in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Viral fever has broken out in an epidemic form in Netrakona.

Local civil surgeon office sources said about 40 per cent people have been affected with the disease.

Patients are pouring in to health complexes and hospitals for treatment from different areas.

The symptoms of the disease are high temperature, headache, cough and cold.

Top criminal discloses names of godfathers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Top criminal Ainal Sarder of Sharsa upazilla in Jessore district has disclosed to police the names of his godfathers and armed cadres of private gang looking after the smuggling syndicate formed in 1998.

Police recovered a foreign made DBL gun, an Indian pistol, four live gun cartridges and 20 live hand grenades in pursuance of his confession. The arms were recovered on Saturday midnight from his hideout at village Kanyadaha in Sharsa upazilla. Police recovered nine more arms from his possession after he was arrested a few days back.

A professional killer, Ainal said to police during interrogation while on two day remand that his gang consists of 35 armed cadres. Most of them have fled to India, he said.

All my godfather have also gone into hiding, he said to police while on remand which ended on Sunday.

There were LMG, SMG, AK-47 rifle among other most sophisticated arms including more sawn off rifles and Indian revolvers in possession of absconding cadres of the gang of Ainal, police said. He will be handed over to joint interrogation team for further questioning, said Jessore police super. Officer-in-charge (OC), Badrul Alam of Sharsa thana said that no stone would be left unturned to recover remaining huge number of arms from Ainal's gang.

3-day children's fair in Tangail concludes

The three-day long children's fair concluded in Tangail on October 1, says a press release.

Tangail District Information Office with the assistance of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Bangladesh arranged the fair on the occasion of Child Rights Week with a view to creating awareness about child rights under the global movement: Say Yes for children campaign.



PHOTO: STAR

A female worker dries up indigo paste at village Kalibari in Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh. Mannonite Central Committee (MCC), an international non-governmental organisation, has taken up a scheme to bring 0.87 acres of land under indigo cultivation this year on experimental basis. Initially MCC undertook the project of indigo farming in 2000 involving the 'Garo' people of Jalchhatra, a village in Madhupur upazila.

Unnatural death cases pile up

OUR CORRESPONDENT Netrakona

A large number of unnatural death cases have remained pending for a long time with courts only because of non-availability of viscera reports.

Delay in receiving viscera

reports from the laboratory in Dhaka has been an obstacle to early disposal of unnatural death cases. Viscera tests are done on parts of human organs to find out the causes of death. The laboratory usually takes a long time to send the reports.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon of Netrakona said it is difficult for the lone laboratory in the country to send all the reports in time. More laboratories should be set up in different parts of the country, he opined.

2 BCL activists held in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were arrested by police on September 28 from Chakkobdaspara in Sirajganj town on charge of setting ablaze a BNP leader's mini-truck valued about Tk 5.50 lakh.

Police said at about 3 am on the same night a gang of armed miscreants numbering 20/25 led by Motiar Rahman alias Moti Kobiraz of village Chakkabdas para over previous enmity attacked the house

of local BNP leader Sanowar Hossain and at one stage threw explosives and countrymade bombs and set ablaze the truck by petrol.

Sanowar Hossain cried for help and local people tried to obstruct the miscreants, but they blasted another bomb and fled away from the spot.

Sanowar Hossain lodged a case against 13 Awami League (AL) activists including Moti Kobiraz. Police arrested the BCL activists named Shamim and Shariful from